

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. In a wireless communication system having mobile subscriber units
2 and a plurality of fixed network devices located at cell sites, a method for acquiring and
3 managing a plurality of communication modes at each subscriber unit comprising:
4 first sensing whether the subscriber unit is static or mobile from the nature and
5 quality of the communication links with nearby network devices; thereafter
6 enabling an acquisition protocol suited to static mode and mobile mode for
7 said subscriber unit; and
8 enabling an acquisition protocol suited to mobile mode for mobile subscriber
9 units and static mode for fixed subscriber units.

1 2. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:
2 initiating procedures to change acquisition mode from static mode to mobile
3 mode upon failure of the subscriber unit to sense a preselected number of consecutive
4 scheduled polling packets sent by a linked device.

1 3. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:
2 initiating procedures to determine whether it is appropriate to change
3 acquisition mode from static mode to mobile mode upon failure to transmit a preselected
4 number of consecutive data packets

1 4. The method according to claim 3 further comprising:
2 upon decision to change to mobile mode, foregoing best node qualification.

1 5. The method according to claim 3 further comprising:
2 upon decision to change to mobile mode, foregoing registration of location
3 with a name service.

1 6. The method according to claim 3 further comprising:
2 upon decision to change to mobile mode, transmitting sync packets at a higher
3 repetitiveness.

1 7. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:
2 upon decision to change to mobile mode, foregoing third party query
3 processes.

8. The method according to claim 3, further comprising:
upon decision to change to mobile mode, foregoing best node qualification;
foregoing registration of location with a name service;
foregoing third party query processes; and
transmitting sync packets at a higher repetitively.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
upon a subscriber unit changing its BMC, causing said subscriber unit to send forwarding packets to its former bestnode, and
updating a new corresponding path to a gateway resource.